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Red Cross Assists in Cuban Plan

The headquarters of the American Red Cross here is one of the nerve-centers in the national effort to ransom 1113 Bay of Pigs prisoners from Fidel Castro.

In what used to be a conference room, dozens of staff members are working late into the night arranging transportation for the drugs, medical equipment and food being donated by firms throughout the country.

So far, about 300 firms have contributed or promised nearly 20-million-dollars-worth of the 53 million dollars in supplies asked by Castro. Items sought total 10,000, ranging from powdered milk to dental cabinets.

Ramone S. Eaton, Red Cross vice president for international relations, is sure that the price can be met. He said he hopes the job will be finished in three months.

As contributions are made, the Red Cross arranges transportation to Opa Locka Airfield in Florida. Air Transport Association, railroad and trucking officials have pooled resources to haul the supplies from scattered locations.

When a shipment departs the headquarters is notified and in turn lets Florida know when to expect it. Two ships are standing by in Miami ready to carry the supplies to Cuba and possibly bring the prisoners back.